

Message Text

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CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, KN, JA

SUBJECT: SECOND PHASE OF COMPETITION FOR LOYALTY OF EXPATRIATE

KOREANS BEGINS

REF: 75 SEOUL 7366 (NOTAL) (DTG 190836Z SEP 75)

1. WITH THE ADVENT OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR, THE ROKG PUBLICLY LAUNCHED STAGE TWO OF THE COMPETITION WITH PYONGYANG FOR SUPPORT OF KOREAN RESIDENTS OF JAPAN. THE ROKG HOPES TO GET AT LEAST 2,500 KOREAN MEMBERS OF THE PYONGYANG-SUPPORTED CHONGNYON (CHOSEN SOREN) KOREAN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION IN JAPAN TO VISIT RELATIVES AND ANCESTRAL HOMES IN SOUTH KOREA DURING THE COMING FEW WEEKS OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR PERIOD. BECAUSE OF THE SUCCESS OF LAST YEAR'S EFFORT, (1,276 CHONGNYON VISITORS IN 1975 ACCORDING TO MOFA) PYONGYANG HAS REPORTEDLY MADE A STRONG EFFORT IN JAPAN TO INTERFERE IN THE KCIA'S RECRUITMENT OF VISITORS,

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AND THE LUNAR NEW YEAR VISITOR TOTAL MAY THEREFORE NOT MEET THE

GOAL OF 2,500. (1,880 HAVE VISITED ROK SINCE JANUARY 1, PER MOFA)
THE INTERFERENCE ITSELF, HOWEVER IS WIDELY REGARDED IN OFFICIAL
CIRCLES HERE AS A SIGNAL OF ITS SUCCESS, ONE OF THE FEW VICTORIES
IN THE POLITICAL ARENA THAT THE ROK HAS HAD OVER THE NORTH.

2. FOR THE PAST FEW DAYS, BEGINNING WITH THE ARRIVAL OF 527
CHONGNYON VISITORS JANUARY 24, ROK NEWSPAPERS AND TV STATIONS
HAVE GIVEN PROMINENT COVERAGE TO THE ARRIVAL OF THE KOREAN
RESIDENTS OF JAPAN. PHOTOGRAPHS OF HAPPY, SMILING ARRIVALS AND
TEARFUL REUNIONS HAVE DOMINATED FRONT PAGES AS THE VISITORS
SCATTER OVER THE COUNTRYSIDE TO VISIT RELATIVES UNDER THE
PROTECTIVE GAZE OF SATISFIED ROK OFFICIALS.

3. NORTH KOREA HAS REACTED SHARPLY TO THE SUCCESSFUL ROK VISIT
PROGRAM. NOT ONLY HAVE THEY REPORTEDLY ATTEMPTED TO INTERFERE
IN THE RECRUITMENT EFFORT IN JAPAN BY INTIMIDATING PROSPECTIVE
VISITORS, BUT THEY HAVE ALSO BROADCAST OVER KCNA QTE EXPOSES
UNQTE CRITICAL OF THE PROGRAM PURPORTEDLY AUTHORED BY
PARTICIPANTS. ONE SUCH BROADCAST ON JANUARY 14 ACCUSED THE SEOUL
AUTHORITIES OF FILLING UP THE VISIT PROGRAM WITH PRO-SEOUL
MINDAN MEMBERS, PASSING THEM OFF AS DISAFFECTED CHONGNYON
VISITORS. (WE HAVE SEEN NOTHING TO SUPPORT THIS ALLEGATION)
ANOTHER BROADCAST ON THE SAME DAY ANNOUNCED A RECEPTION IN
PYONGYANG FOR VISITING CHONGNYON MEMBERS BUT FAILED TO MENTION
ANY NUMBERS. BECAUSE MOST OF THE FAMILIES AND ANCESTRAL HOMES
OF KOREAN RESIDENTS IN JAPAN ARE, ACCORDING TO KNOWLEDGEABLE
ROK OFFICIALS, IN SOUTH KOREA, THE NORTH MUST OPERATE AT A
DISADVANTAGE IN THIS COMPETITION.
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